

Claims

1. A system for sanitizing a shopping cart, comprising:
 - a fluid delivery source for providing a fluid;
 - a plurality of nozzles for receiving said fluid and ejecting said fluid, said plurality of nozzles being positioned in multiple sets of a plurality of nozzles, where each set the plurality of nozzles is directed to provide said fluid to the centermost area of an enclosure;
 - a conveyor belt system for conveying a shopping cart from a first end of the enclosure to a second end of said enclosure, said conveyor belt system comprising a conveyor belt in communication with a conveyor belt motor for use in moving the conveyor belt, said conveyor belt for transporting the shopping cart thereon;
 - a plurality of sensors for providing a signal indicative of the position of said shopping cart in said enclosure; and
 - a processor for receiving said sensor signal and activating said delivery source in accordance with the position of said shopping cart.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said fluid is at least one of a sanitizing fluid, washing fluid, rinsing fluid and air.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said fluid is a disinfecting agent for neutralizing the harmful affects of contaminants.
4. A system according to claim 3, wherein said processor receives said sensor signal and activates said conveyor belt motor in accordance with the position of said shopping cart.
5. A system according to claim 4, wherein said sets of a plurality of nozzles are organized in stages, wherein at least one of said stages is for disinfecting a surface of said shopping cart.

6. A system according to claim 4, wherein said sets of a plurality of nozzles are organized in stages, wherein at least one of said stages is for washing a surface of said shopping cart.

7. A system according to claim 4, wherein said sets of a plurality of nozzles are organized in stages, wherein at least one of said stages is for drying a surface of said shopping cart.

8. A system according to claim 4, wherein said sets of a plurality of nozzles are organized in stages, and wherein each stage comprises a stage fluid delivery source.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein at least one of said plurality of sensors provides a signal to said processor indicative of the position of said shopping cart in said enclosure, said processor thereby activating the operation of at least one of said stages fluid delivery sources in accordance with said shopping cart position.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said at least one of said plurality of sensors provides a signal to said processor indicative of the position of said shopping cart in said enclosure, said processor providing a signal to said motor for operating said conveyor belt in accordance with said shopping cart position.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein said conveyor belt further includes radially positioned ribs, said ribs being of a sufficient length to contact said shopping cart in said enclosure, said ribs being comprised of a rigid material.

12. A system according to claim 1, further including a heating apparatus for heating said fluid.

13. A system according to claim 1, further including a heating apparatus for heating the ambient temperature of said enclosure.

14. A method for sanitizing a shopping cart, said method comprising:
providing nozzles for ejecting fluid on the surface of a shopping cart, where at least portion of said fluid contains a sanitizing agent;
providing a conveyor for transporting a shopping cart through an area in which the fluid is injected; and
drying the shopping cart.
15. A method for sanitizing a shopping cart, said method comprising:
providing disinfecting stages, wherein at least one of the stages comprises providing a disinfecting fluid to a surface of a shopping cart;
controlling the operation of the stages and the conveyor belt in accordance with the location of a shopping cart.
16. A method for sanitizing a shopping cart, said method comprising providing a plurality of disinfecting stages, wherein at least one of said stages disinfects the surface of a shopping cart in accordance with the ambient temperature of an enclosure.
17. A method according to claim 16 further comprising,
providing a first stage for removing organic matter from a shopping cart surface.
18. A method according to claim 17 further comprising detecting the position of a shopping cart in an enclosure.
19. A method according to claim 18 further comprising, providing a drying agent to the surface of the shopping cart.
20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said plurality of disinfecting stages disinfects a plurality of shopping carts simultaneously.